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Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2006 8:37 AM

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Subject: Re: How Things Really Work In The Ocean - A Layman's View

>Only when everything is totally depleted, like in huge sections of the
>Sea Of Cortez where the entire eco-system has collapsed, are fishing
>closures and reserves warranted.

Ace - The point is to do something about the problems BEFORE the collapse occurs. Once it occurs, it is too late. When pushed too far, species cannot recover - Once it occurs, it seems to be unfixable. The cod banks have collapsed off England and Nova Scotia, and salmon are in deep trouble. We saw the same phenomena with the pigeons in the 1900s and other fish species.(herring, wasn't it?) Abundance existed for millenia, but over-harvesting devastated their numbers to a point where they could not recover. There are massive dead zones in the ocean from pollution and drag net fishing. If we continue this way, we won't have a fishing industry, much less sport fishing. Better to slow down to a sustainable level.

The woman that anthropomorphized the fish may not have been stating this fact in an understandable way, but basically I think she was saying what more and more of us, environmentalists, sport fishers, or christians caring for creation or just survivalists, have come to believe - we cannot take so much that we destroy the species. Its a little like the cave men that hunted by driving whole herds off cliffs and then straved to death. Haven't we advanced beyond this?

Lynne Plambeck